

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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JOHN McILROY, Editor.

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The London Punch has exclusive information that the United States Government is projecting battleships of such size that it will be necessary to enlarge the Atlantic.

It is astonishing to learn that more than 1,000 Japanese are employed in our Navy Yards. If there are any secrets about our shipbuilding and armament, they may as well be published to the world.

Mrs. Stonewall Jackson will receive from the Government a pension of \$30 a month on account of her husband's services in the Mexican War. It is a special act, and was hung up in the House until a little pressure from the President promoted its passage.

Prof. Charles Augustus Briggs manages to keep himself in the light spot. He is now advocating a "Constitutional" Papacy, and the reorganization of the Roman Catholic Church on the lines that have worked so well in political matters. He would have the whole Christian Church rebuilt on the model of the United States Government.

Hon. Hoke Smith's success in being elected Governor of Georgia brings him the usual fate of a boom for the President. Georgia has never had a President, and would hardly like one. We risk nothing of our reputation as a political prophet when we say that if nominated he would receive mighty few votes from the Union veterans.

No wonder that the people of the Northwest are hot against the railways and the lumber trust. Taking advantage of the troubles over coal shortage, the lumber trust has added \$2 a thousand to the already high price charged for lumber, which greatly increases the hardships of farmers in providing themselves with homes and buildings.

We wait with much interest the results of the Utah experiment of loaning convicts to dental students to operate upon. There is something peculiarly attractive in thinking about a man who has beaten his wife, or starved his children, taking the money that should have bought their food, for rum, or some cashier who has speculated with and lost the savings of the poor, being bound down in a dentist's chair while some clumsy dental apprentice learns how to bore holes in his teeth, or to quarry out great blocks to put in a filling.

David S. Kramer, of Vandalia, Ill., sued ex-Senate Senator G. E. V. Fletcher for alienation of Mrs. Kramer's affections, and put the issue that he had sustained by that act at \$50,000. The jury took a look at the faithless wife, and decided that \$500 was about the right figure. There seems to be as wide a discrepancy of views in Illinois as to the worth of wives as there is to other possessions, say, Chicago real estate. Yet a difference of \$49,500 upon a single piece of property is rather phenomenal.

Like muck-raking generally, the process is very disagreeable, but the Thaw trial has resulted in much good, and we are glad that the Constockers did not have their way and exclude the papers from the mails. This moral house-cleaning seems necessary periodically. Both White and Thaw led vice lives, and White deserved all he got. This is the general consensus of opinion. Thaw is worse than White, and it will be a gross miscarriage of justice if he is not hanged. The exhibition of the vicious careers of both murderer and victim will sober up the community into more rigid scrutiny of men's lives, and show their imitators how decent men abhor crimes which have been tolerated too much.

No matter what the result of the Brownsville investigation, the negro soldiers called as witnesses made the best impression upon everybody in Washington. They were dignified, soldier-like, respectful of themselves and everybody else. They answered every question put to them directly and fully, without wandering beyond the limits of the question. They bore up well under the severe cross-examination, never losing their temper, or their respect for the Senators, and when told that they had not said something in their previous examination, replied quietly, "That was not asked me." So far as they are concerned it appears clear that the battalion was made up of good material, and under the best discipline.

A most important question is raised by the suit of Alexander Lock, of Rich Hill, Mo., against the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He claims \$143.75 damages for the failure of the railroad to furnish him three cars in which to ship some cattle. On the face of it, it would seem as if he has a right to damages. The railroad has secured great privileges on the ground of serving the public. Logically it falls to render that service. It is liable for damages. Furnishing cars to shippers is an essential part of its service. Failure to do this within a just and reasonable time is just as bad as not furnishing them at all. Prima facie, Mr. Lock has a good case, and the court's decision will have a far-reaching interest.

THE WIDOW OF GEN. HAWLEY.

Quite an interesting discussion took place in the Senate last Friday over the bill to place on the pension roll Edith A. Hawley, widow of Gen. Joseph R. Hawley, at the rate of \$50 a month. The Senate Committee on Pensions unanimously reported against the bill. The report praised highly the services of Gen. Hawley in the army, where he rose from a Captain to brevet Major-General of Volunteers, and was in the last months of his life placed upon the retired list of the United States Army as a Brigadier-General. He served several terms as a member of Congress from Connecticut, and 24 years as United States Senator, during which time he was for 15 years Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. His services as Senator terminated March 3, 1905. He married the present Mrs. Hawley Nov. 15, 1887. She has stock in the Hartford Courant to the amount of \$40,000, and has \$10,000 otherwise invested, all of which yields her an income of \$2,400 a year.

Senator McCumber, in making the adverse report, called attention to the fact of her income, which enabled her to live abroad and educate her children, and said that the principle involved was dangerous. There were thousands of widows of private soldiers and minor officers who were without pensions at all, or struggling along on a bare pittance of \$12 a month or thereabout. These were exceedingly grateful for the small pension which the Government had given them, and frequently received their little pittance with their old eyes streaming with tears of gratitude. He thought it the duty of the Government to pension those who were in actual need of pensions before giving way to sentiments of admiration and gratitude and bestowing pensions upon those who had no need of them.

Senator Scott praised the frankness of Mrs. Hawley, which was in strong contradiction to other widows, who had concealed their means and income. He had known of widows who in order to secure a pension had transferred their property to their daughters and sons. Gen. Hawley was a leader in the battles of his country almost as much as Gen. Logan and Sheridan. The widow of Gen. Sheridan gets \$2,500 a year; Mrs. Logan gets \$2,000, and has vastly more property than Mrs. Hawley, and Mrs. Blair gets \$2,000.

Senator Gallinger called attention to the fact that there are scores and scores of widows of general officers, who have no title to pension, who are placed on the pension roll at from \$50 to \$75 a month—soldiers much less distinguished than Gen. Hawley in military and civil life.

Senator Scott alluded to Senator McCumber's opposition to pensions to nurses. Senator McCumber replied that it was the inequality in the bill which caused his opposition. He revered the nurse as much as anybody, but he revered still more the soldier who fought for four years, and he considered it an injustice that the men who stood in the ranks for four years should receive only \$12 a month, while the nurse who served only six months should get \$25.

Senator McCumber explained that the pension to the widow of Stonewall Jackson was on a different basis, since she is absolutely without means. He was unwilling to pension Mrs. Hawley, who had married the Senator late in life, and neglect the widows of others who had been married to their husbands during war years.

Senator Gallinger spoke of Gen. Hawley as great as a soldier and great as a citizen, and recalled how he had tottered in and out of the Senate Chamber during the last months of his life, when he was cared for by his wife as tenderly as a woman would for a child. That cultured woman, the widow of that great man, should be placed in a position where she can educate Gen. Hawley's children and put them in a position in life that will be a credit to her distinguished husband. He also called attention to the fact that Gen. Hawley had not applied for a pension, and had lived but one month to draw his salary on the retired list.

Senator Blackburn supported the bill. Senator Pettus favored the bill, and recalled a precedent where Gen. Hull's widow, who had married him long after the war, received \$50 and then \$75.

Senator Spooner spoke of Gen. Hawley's great services and his economy of life, saying that he had once offered to give Gen. Hawley a fine riding horse, which the General wanted very much, but said with tears in his eyes, "I have not money enough to pay for his keep." The widow of Gen. Logan was an exceptional case, and an exceptional case ought to be made of the widow of Gen. Hawley. If Mrs. Hawley lived abroad, it is because her limited income would go farther in that country than in this.

Senator Patterson paid a high compliment to Senator McCumber for the manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the Pension Committee, and said that his action in regard to this bill met his entire approval.

Senator Daniel spoke highly of Gen. Hawley, and said that he did not take advantage of the opportunities which high position gave him to make money; his patriotism was a worthy example, and therefore his widow should receive the recognition of such a life.

Senator Bulkeley supported the bill with forcible arguments, and had read an extensive statement of Gen. Hawley's military service; the praise which his deeds received from his superior officers, especially Gov. Buckingham and Gen. Gillmore, Seymour and Terry. He submitted a list of the widows who had been placed upon the pension roll at and above the rate of \$50 a month.

Senator Brandegee supported the bill, saying it was but a feeble attempt on the part of Congress to express the honor and esteem in which Gen. Hawley was held.

Senator Bacon said that when he came into the Senate there were many Federal soldiers, but now there were few, both Federal and Confederate, and all of the latter, he thought, would support the bill.

Senator McCumber reiterated his admiration for Gen. Hawley and for his widow and also his firm belief that be-

fore giving pensions to the widows of officers who were in good circumstances that the widows of private soldiers and minor officers who were in need should be pensioned. He called attention to the fact that he had not objected to the pension of \$72 to ex-Senator Blair, and who had given his life to the service of his country in the army and in the Senate. He was now poor and old, and had been wounded several times, but had never before asked for a pension.

Senator Bulkeley recalled the fact that a pension had been given the widow of Gen. Lawton, who had testified that she had \$100,000.

Senator Mallory said that he had not the slightest objection to giving a proper pension to every Union soldier, and had never voted against one since he had been in the Senate, but he would support the position of the Chairman.

Senator Talliferro said that he was a Confederate soldier and would oppose the bill, not out of hostility to Gen. Hawley or to any veteran of the Federal army, but because the widow had a considerable income which was sufficient to support her and her family.

Senator Aldrich said that the rule adopted by the Pension Committee was a correct one, but that granting pensions to the widows of Gen. Grant, Sheridan, Logan and other great soldiers was a recognition of their service, and had been in the line of the policy adopted by every civilized country since history began.

The bill was then passed.

FUTURE OF THE RAILROADS.

B. F. Younk, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Rock Island "Trisco" system, does not share the views of his fellow-financiers as to the gloomy future of the railroads. He says:

"This country is too big and too powerful to be bound to grow old and decay. It is bigger and stronger, and the railways will grow with it. The anti-railway agitation to-day will retard, but not stop, the development and improvement of the railroads."

This is absolutely true. No one has the slightest idea of destroying the railroads, or seriously impairing their development. All that anyone wants is that railroad building and management shall be subjected to the ordinary business rules and secure such fair profits as characterize other lines of business. It is the wild kitting and the inordinate greed of some railway men and bankers that is exciting the anger of the people. Every man expects that every other man who ventures his money in business should be allowed a fair return for the use of his capital and for the risks that he may run in an enterprise. The railroads are a necessity for the people, and it is desirable that they shall be extended until every portion of the country has the best of transportation facilities. Because a man builds a railroad he has no more right to expect to at once increase his property 10-fold than another man has who establishes some other industry or factory that the community needs. For example, some community may very badly need a blacksmith shop, and they are quite content that any blacksmith who will locate there shall make higher charges for a term of years than blacksmiths elsewhere are charging. But if that blacksmith should secure a monopoly of all the smithing done in the neighborhood, then capitalize his shop at four or five times its value, next double the stock again upon some pretext, and then insist that the people should pay him enough to make big annual dividends upon all this water, the people would have a right to object. They would not abolish the blacksmith shop by any means, but would insist upon squeezing the water out and bringing the blacksmith back to something like the same profits that the carpenters, masons and other mechanics were satisfied with.

From a strictly economic point of view, the railroads are no different from the blacksmith shop. They are public facilities and very much needed ones, and the men who put their money into them should receive an ample return for the use of their capital and for the risk that they may run in establishing a railroad where it is problematical whether it will pay. The railroad managers have not been content, however, with getting returns on three or four times the capital that they actually invested, but they have insisted upon constantly loading the railroads down with floods of watered stock, upon which they expect the community to pay dividends. The legislation now urged will stop this unhealthy and even criminal inflation, and bring the railroad business down to something like the same lines that govern all other forms of business, which is all that is desired.

THE PENSION AGENCIES.

There was a long and stubborn disagreement between the two Houses over the abolition of all the Pension Agencies except the one at Washington. This provision had passed the House of Representatives, but the Senate desired to retain the agencies as they are, and particularly after the passage of the McCumber bill, which would throw such a great increase of work upon the Pension Bureau. It was felt that the Pension Agencies as they now stand were absolutely necessary to help the Pension Bureau carry out the provisions of the new law. After two or three disagreements the Conference Committee finally adopted the following provision, which was at once adopted by both Houses, and consequently the Pension Agencies will for the time being be retained.

"Provided, That the Secretary of the Interior shall make inquiry and report to Congress at the beginning of its next regular session the effect of a reduction of the present pension agencies to one such agency upon the economic execution of the pension laws, the prompt, efficient payment to pensioners, and the convenience to pensioners, if any, which would result from such reduction. This provision shall not be construed as interfering with or limiting the right or power of the President in existing law in respect to reduction or consolidation of existing pension agencies."

And the Senate agreed to the same.

P. J. McCumber,
N. B. Scott,
J. P. Talliferro,
Managers on the part of the Senate.

Washington Gardner,
W. P. Brownlow,
John A. Sullivan (dismissing),
Managers on the part of the House.

THE RESIGNATION OF SENATOR SPOONER.

The past week did not lack its usual quota of surprises, but the greatest of all and the one which brought the most regret to the widest circle was that of the resignation of Senator John C. Spooner, of Wisconsin. No one seems to have known of his intention except Vice President Fairbanks, and the publication of his letter to the Governor of his State startled everyone. There was an immediate and generous pressure from his friends in the Senate, which practically included every Senator, to have him recall his letter, but he was inexorable, and the reason he gave for it in his letter and in conversations with those who tried to dissuade him was unanswerable. He said that he had devoted 16 years of his life to the service of his State and the United States at a salary which did not meet his ordinary living expenses. He had relinquished a lucrative practice at the bar to become Senator, and had devoted himself unflinchingly to his public duties to the entire sacrifice of his private life and other means of making money. He is now 64 years of age, and feels that it is necessary for him to do something to make a provision for his declining years. The resignation will take effect May 1. As the Wisconsin Legislature is now in session, an opportunity will be given to elect his successor.

Senator Spooner was born at Lawrenceburg, Ind., Jan. 6, 1842, and was reared by his father to Wisconsin in 1852. He graduated from the State University in 1864; was a private in the 40th Wis., and then Captain of Co. A, 50th Wis., receiving a brevet of Major at the close of his service. He was Secretary to Governor Lucius Fairbank, admitted to the bar in 1867, and, after holding various offices, was elected to the United States Senate in 1885 to succeed Senator Cameron. At the close of his term he was succeeded by William F. Vilas; was unanimously nominated by the Republican caucus for another term and elected Jan. 27, 1897. He announced himself unalterably opposed to receiving a re-election, but in spite of this he was re-elected in 1903, receiving every Republican vote in both Houses. His term would have expired March 3, 1909. Senator Spooner has won a high reputation in the Senate as one of the ablest lawyers in that body of distinguished lawyers. He is a prompt and fearless debater, keen logician, thoroughly familiar with the details of the body and public business, and is formidable as an antagonist and invaluable as a supporter. The President has regarded him very highly, as did President McKinley before him, who offered him a place in the Cabinet, which he declined. There is some talk about his being appointed to the Supreme Bench, but this does not obtain wide credence. It is said that he proposes to go to New York and enter upon the practice of law there. When questioned, Senator Spooner said that he would still retain his home in Madison, but would practice law in any court in which he had cases. The retirement of Senator Spooner is of much interest to Union veterans, as he is one of the rapidly decreasing number of Union soldiers in the Senate of the United States.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

The failure to include widows in the General Service pension bill is so noticeable by the people as to give great hopes for the early passage of another pension bill, which will include that most deserving class. Everywhere there is manifest a feeling that the widows should receive as much consideration as the veterans, and it will be the object of The National Tribune to stimulate this feeling until it becomes a controlling sentiment and secures the passage of a bill which will give \$12 a month to every widow of a veteran. There can be no question of the justice of such an allowance. If the veteran himself had not been broken down by his service, he would have been able to make proper provision for his widow. That he did not gives the woman a legitimate claim upon the Government, and she has still another claim, from the fact that she nursed and cared for the veteran thru the last years of his life. This severe duty she performed with loving, wife-like fidelity that should be appreciated and rewarded. A pension to her is properly a part of the pension awarded her husband for his services. It is a part problem valued by him as much if not more than the pension granted himself. Every veteran would rather have less for himself in this life if he can secure more for his widow after his death. This feeling is universal among the veterans, and the reasons for a widow's pension are so manifest and so powerful that we feel the passage of such a measure of justice cannot be long delayed. The National Tribune is going to take up the fight with all the energy that it can command, and with the hope that at the next session of Congress we shall see the grand work done by the McCumber bill properly supplemented by similar provisions for the widows.

THE PHILADELPHIA ELECTION.

The National Tribune has another feather in its cap in the election of John E. Reyburn as Mayor of Philadelphia by the pleasing majority of 45,060. The National Tribune supported Mr. Reyburn, whose course during his long service in Congress has shown him to be admirably fitted for the Chief Executive of a city which has more wealth and population than several States of the Union. Mr. Reyburn's election by that majority after all the tuncit and fever of reform and revolt against the regular Republican organization is peculiarly gratifying. Undoubtedly the old organization was full of faults and deserved the chastisement which it received at the hands of the people, but the new element that came in did not commend itself at all, and the people turned gladly from it to such safe and sane leadership as was offered by Mr. Reyburn's candidacy.

In this 20th Century, when everybody is taking everything as a joke and scheming to get more, a case like that of the painter, Phil. Coultre, of Kanakake, Ill., is baffling. Mr. Coultre had been doing some work, and was doing it so



Much of the morbid interest in the Thaw case, which was at its height during the direct testimony and cross-examination of young Mrs. Thaw, seems to have disappeared, and comparatively few are now following the case. Mrs. Thaw has again taken the stand on Monday of last week and was also recalled on Tuesday, but Jerome was unable to trap her into making several admissions which she had wished to make, and she herself was quick and clever enough to get in some explanations which greatly helped her husband's case. In various instances the court sustained the objections which Delmas made to Jerome's questions, and while, perhaps, the week's proceedings brot no decided victory to the defense, they certainly were not groundless as they did during the first days of young Mrs. Thaw's cross-examination. Jerome announced that he was thru with her on Tuesday, and she left the witness chair with her story practically unshaken and intact, having proved herself to be one of the most remarkable witnesses ever seen in a court room. No matter what may be the result of her as a dangerous member of society, as a precocious young girl determined upon pleasure at any price, her eyes were open to the sin of her life, yet it must be admitted that the intellectual cunning and self-control she displayed during the entire time she occupied the witness chair were phenomenal. Looked at as a witness pure and simple, she is a most remarkable young woman, and told her story exactly as she first told it. Her husband's assertion that she told that story to her young husband, both stand firm and intact. Extracts from a diary written by her when a school girl of 17 were introduced, and they showed her to be an observing, thinking girl, with, as the saying goes, "her eye teeth cut." These extracts only confirmed the fact that she was perfectly aware of the pit-falls which surrounded her, and eminently capable of avoiding them had she so chosen. After Jerome finished with her he took the doctors, and during the remainder of the week was spent in trying to make them admit that Thaw was now insane. They agree that his mental equipment was unstable, that he broke down entirely at the time he shot White, and may do so again, but that at present he is mentally all right, or as near right as he is, and that he can hope to be taken out of the insane asylum. The public is to be congratulated that the purely sensational part of the trial is over.

Gen. William Booth, the head of that army which was created—the Salvation Army—is on his way around the world. He is expected in America very shortly, will then go to Canada, and from there to the East. This grand old man, bowed with the weight of 78 years, is still full of enthusiasm for his work, and of plans for the enlarging of his sphere of usefulness. The Salvation Army, which was organized by him and has now the respect, sympathy and admiration of the whole world. It has quite recently taken up a new branch of work, prompted to do so by the distressing number of suicides in England, and anti-suicide bureaus have been established by the Army in London. These bureaus are for the purpose of helping and advising the desperate, unhappy souls who are contemplating suicide, and an earnest invitation to call at their headquarters or to write is extended to all such by the Salvation Army. Each bureau is in charge of a man and woman with a staff of assistants. The plan in London was successful from the very day of the opening of the bureaus, which were thronged with people from all conditions of life, from the grand lady who came in her carriage to the ragged wretch of London's streets. In the first three months no fewer than 350 people were interviewed, the greater portion of whom were persuaded to give up a little longer trial. It was found necessary to classify the applicants, and it is doing so the discovery was made that there were four principal reasons why people wish to shuffle off this mortal coil, preferring to die to live as they know it rather than bear those they have. These were found to be incurable illness of any kind, the habit formed from the use of narcotics or strong drink, unhappy love affairs, and the want of money, and the lack of employment. It seems strange that no one has ever tried to help this particular class of unfortunate souls. As life has grown more complex, so has suicide grown more common, and it has increased alarmingly in the past few years. That one's troubles must be kept to one's self is almost a law, and the solitary brooding over them has too often led to suicide is most true. In many cases, in almost every case, if the whole story could be told, and the cause of some sympathetic, sensible, practical person, the evil would be averted. This work has just been taken up by the Salvation Army in an effort to save souls. The most natural design was, of course, a picture of our friend Pontas and Capt. John, but the fairly good picture of the Captain was found, nothing in the shape of a picture of the friend could be discovered.

The Duchess of Marlborough appears to be looking up and enjoying herself, mildly at least. She is still in France, and says many grand things at Boulogne the other day to some Count, Schleswig-Holstein royalties. Several of the Vanderbilts are over there with her, and they all go together in their limousine cars, luncheon here, and dinner there, wherever there is a celebrated chef, and having a good time generally. Everywhere the Duchess goes she attracts a great deal of attention, which she ignores in her haughtiest, Vere de Vere manner. It is said that she will come to America in the early summer, and say many grand things at Boulogne the other day to some Count, Schleswig-Holstein royalties. Several of the Vanderbilts are over there with her, and they all go together in their limousine cars, luncheon here, and dinner there, wherever there is a celebrated chef, and having a good time generally. 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